## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7968

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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USCINCEUR

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USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL MANEUVERING CONTINUES

1. INTENSE POLITICAL ACTIVITY -- AND RUMORS -- KEP ANKARA BUZZING OVER THE WEEKEND. ALTHOUGH SOME ATTENTION AND COMMENTARY IS BEING DEVOTED TO THE ECEIVT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE READ IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 28, INTEREST IS FOCUSSED ON THE CONFIDENCE VOTE WHICH WILL FOLLOW A FEW DAYS LATER.

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2. ECEVIT'S PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS SEEMED TO SLIP SLIGHTLY JUNE 25 WHEN REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU SAID HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT IN THE CONFIDENCE VOTE DEPENDED ON THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. THIS STATEMENT WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A BLOW TO ECEVIT BECAUSE FEYZIOGLU HAD BEEN MAKING MORE POSITIVE STATEMENTS EARLIER. IN FACT,

FEYZIOGLU HAS BEEN FAIRLY CAUTIOUS ALL ALONG, AND HE IS CLEARLY TRYING TO MAKE HIS THREE VOTES COUNT.

- 3. THE SINGLE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) DEPUTY, FARUK SUKAN, MADE HIS POSITION A LITTLE CLEARER JUNE 25. HE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE RPP GOVERNMENT BUT SAID HE WILL SUPPORT IT ONLY IF IT GIVES UP THE GOAL OF ABOLISHING ARTICLES 141 AND 142 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE. (ARTICLES 141 AND 142 EFFECTIVELY PROHIBIT PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY).
- 4. TURKEY'S LARGEST LABOR CONFEDERATION, TURK-IS, DESPITE THE STRONG PRO-RPP SYMPATHIES OF MANY OF ITS MEMBERS, HAS NTIL NOW REMAINED POLITICALLY UNCOMMITTED. JUNE 24 TURK-IS CHAIR-MAN HALIL TUNC ISSUED A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CONFEDERATION'S ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD CALLING FOR SUPPORT FOR THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND THE JP DEPUTIES WHO ARE LEADERS OF TURK-IS MEMBER UNIONS TOOK IMMEDIATE EXCEPTION TO TUNC'S STATEMENT CLAIMING HE HAD MADE IT WITHOUT APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION.
- 5. ECEVIT TOLD REPORTS JUNE 25 THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN STRONGER GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A GOVERNMENT THAN HE HAD OBSERVED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. MAKING THE SAME POINT, LIBERAL MILLIYET HAS BEEN SOLICITING AND PRINTING COMMENTS FROM DOZENS OF PROMINENT FIGURES. ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE COMMENTS PRINTED IN MILLIYET SUPPORT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. MANY WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE EXPECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO OPPOSE ECEVIT (I.E., INDUSTRIALISTS, IMPORTERS, AND FORMER CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS) GENERALLY EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION BY SAYING THAT IF ECEVIT IS DEFEATED, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. THEY DOUBT DEMIREL'S ABILITY TO RECONSTITUTE HIS NATIONALIST FRONT COALITION. (TWO JP SENATORS EXPRESSED SIMILAR DOUBTS TO AN EMBOFF JUNE 26.) MOREOVER, MANY OF THEM SIMPLY PREFER A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) OR THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP).

6. COMMENT: AMONG MANY OF OUR TURKISH CONTACTS THE FEELING SEEMS TO BE RUNNING HIGH THAT IF ECEVIT LOSES THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, CHAOS WILL FOLLOW. WHILE CHAOS IS NOT INEVITABLE, THE RANGE OF APPARENT ALTERNATIVES IS NOT VERY ATTRACTIVE. AS THE CONFIDENCE VOTE APPROACHES, ECEVIT'S GREATEST ASSET THE ABSENCE OF ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES. DILLON

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